

3 February 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, USIB

SUBJECT: Secretariat Summary of USIB Agenda for 5 February 1970

Item 1      Watch Report

Draft by the Watch Committee to be circulated for USIB approval;  
Sponsor - General Cushman

Item 2      SNIE on The Communist View of the Situation in Laos

BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB  
approval; Sponsor - Mr. Smith

This SNIE was requested on a crash basis on 16 January by Dr. Kissinger at the suggestion of the Interagency Ad Hoc Group on Laos. BNE indicates that there were no major substantive disagreements on this paper at the USIB Representatives level.

State, however, would like to have the second sentence of para. 15 read, "The Communists probably viewed the capture of the Plain, especially in the context of the intensified US air campaign in northern Laos, as evidence of a tougher US line in Laos" rather than as it now reads, "a more aggressive US position in Laos." State's concern is that the estimate not imply that Communist military actions in Laos are primarily responses to RLG/US actions there. BNE indicates that State may drop its reservation before the USIB meeting, but it is more likely Mr. Cline will wish to discuss the point.

The Air Force dissent (para. 9) is to the judgment that despite the heavy cost inflicted by US interdiction in the Panhandle, essential supplies are getting through. BNE believes that the Air Force probably will stick to its dissent with a footnote that will argue, as in similar judgments in past estimates, that US air interdiction has prevented the Communists from operating at as high a level in South Vietnam as they wished to.

Item 3      SNIE on The Outlook from Hanoi

BNE draft coordinated with USIB Representatives for USIB  
approval; Sponsor - Mr. Smith

This SNIE was requested by Dr. Kissinger on 22 January for completion by 6 February. BNE is continuing their meetings with the USIB Representatives this afternoon (Tuesday). State and Air Force have reservations which may or may not be worked out at today's meeting. BNE plans to prepare a briefing memorandum for you which should be available early tomorrow (Wednesday).



Executive Secretary, USIB

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